

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A color processing method for adjusting colors of a specific region, which is a subject of the adjustment in a color image, the color processing method comprising:

calculating a color adjustment distance, which is a distance on a color space between a representative color representing the specific region in the color image and a target color, which is target of the adjustment, on the basis of the representative color and the target color; and

deciding a reproduction color expressing the representative color of the specific region after the adjustment on the basis of the color adjustment distance, ~~wherein~~ the reproduction color ~~is being~~ located between the representative color and the target color, and the reproduction color having a reproduction distance, which is a distance between the representative color and the reproduction color, wherein

the reproduction distance decreases with increase in the color adjustment distance when the color adjustment distance is larger than a certain value.

2. (Currently Amended) The color processing method according to claim 1, ~~further comprising:~~

~~calculating a reproduction distance coefficient, which is used to calculate the reproduction color, on the basis of the color adjustment distance, wherein:~~

~~in the calculation of the reproduction color, wherein the reproduction color is calculated on the basis of the color adjustment distance and the reproduction distance coefficient.~~

3. (Original) The color processing method according to claim 2, further comprising:

calculating a brightness adjustment coefficient, which is used to adjust brightness of the reproduction color, on the basis of the representative color, wherein:

in the calculation of the reproduction color, the reproduction color is calculated on the basis of the color adjustment distance, the reproduction distance coefficient, and the brightness adjustment coefficient.

4. (Original) The color processing method according to claim 3, wherein the brightness adjustment coefficient is calculated on the basis of at least one of brightness, color saturation and hue of the representative color.

5. (Currently Amended) The color processing method according to claim 2, wherein the reproduction distance coefficient is expressed by one of a monotone decreasing function of the color adjustment distance and a differentiable and continuous function of the color adjustment distance.

6. (Currently Amended) The color processing method according to claim 2, wherein the reproduction distance coefficient is constant when the color adjustment distance is not larger than a ~~predetermined~~certain value but the reproduction distance coefficient is expressed by a differentiable and continuous function of the color adjustment distance when the color adjustment distance is larger than the ~~predetermined~~certain value.

7. (Original) The color processing method according to claim 1, wherein the target color is one of a given color, a color selected from a plurality of colors, and a color having a predetermined color component ratio.

8. (Original) The color processing method according to claim 1, wherein the target color is a color having the same color component ratio as that of the representative color.

9. (Original) The color processing method according to claim 1, further comprising:

adjusting colors of the specific region toward the reproduction color.

10. (Currently Amended) A color processing apparatus for adjusting colors of a specific region, which is a subject of the adjustment in a color image, the color processing apparatus comprising:

a color adjustment distance calculation section for calculating a color adjustment distance, which is a distance on a color space between a representative color representing the specific region in the color image and a target color, which is target of the adjustment, on the basis of the representative color and the target color; and

a reproduction color decision section for deciding a reproduction color expressing the representative color of the specific region after the adjustment on the basis of the color adjustment distance, wherein the reproduction color is located between the representative color and the target color, and the reproduction color having a reproduction distance, which is a distance between the representative color and the reproduction color, wherein the reproduction distance decreases with increase in the color adjustment distance when the color adjustment distance is larger than a certain value.

11. (Currently Amended) A color processing apparatus for adjusting colors of a specific region, which is a subject of the adjustment in a color image, the color processing apparatus comprising:

a color adjustment distance calculation section for calculating a color adjustment distance, which is a distance on a color space between a representative color representing the specific region in the color image and a target color, which is target of the adjustment, on the basis of the representative color and the target color;

a reproduction distance coefficient calculation unit for calculating a reproduction distance coefficient, which is used to calculate a reproduction color expressing the representative color of the specific region after color adjustment, on the basis of the color adjustment distance, the reproduction distance coefficient being a distance between the representative color and the reproduction color; and

a reproduction color calculation unit for calculating the reproduction color on the basis of the color adjustment distance and the reproduction distance ~~coefficient~~ coefficient, wherein the reproduction distance coefficient decreases with increase in the color adjustment distance when the color adjustment distance is larger than a certain value.

12. (Original) The color processing apparatus according to claim 11, further comprising:

a brightness adjustment coefficient calculation unit for calculating a brightness adjustment coefficient, which is used to adjust the brightness of the reproduction color, on the basis of the representative color, wherein:

the reproduction color calculation unit calculates the reproduction color on the basis of the color adjustment distance, the reproduction distance coefficient, and the brightness adjustment coefficient.

13. (Original) The color processing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein the brightness adjustment coefficient calculation unit calculates the brightness adjustment coefficient on the basis of at least one of brightness, color saturation and hue of the representative color.

14. (Original) The color processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the reproduction distance coefficient calculation unit calculates the reproduction distance coefficient in accordance with one of a monotone decreasing function of the color adjustment distance and a differentiable and continuous function of the color adjustment distance.

15. (Currently Amended) The color processing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein the reproduction distance coefficient calculation unit calculates the reproduction distance coefficient in accordance with a function of the color adjustment distance which takes a constant when the color adjustment distance is not larger than ~~a predetermined~~the certain value, but is a differentiable and continuous function when the color adjustment distance is larger than the ~~predetermined~~certain value.

16. (Original) The color processing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the target color is one of a given color, a color selected from a plurality of colors, and a color having a predetermined color component ratio.

17. (Original) The color processing apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the target color is a color having the same color component ratio as that of the representative color.

18. (Original) The color processing apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising:

a color adjustment unit for adjusting the colors of the specific region toward the reproduction color.

19. (Currently Amended) A storage medium for storing a program readable by a computer, the program making the computer execute a color process for adjusting colors of a specific region, which is a subject of color adjustment in a color image, wherein the program making the computer execute a color processing comprising:

calculating a color adjustment distance, which is a distance on a color space between a representative color representing the specific region in the color image and a target color, which is target of the adjustment, on the basis of the representative color and the target color; and

deciding a reproduction color expressing the representative color of the specific region after the adjustment on the basis of the color adjustment distance, ~~wherein~~ the reproduction color ~~is~~being located between the representative color and the target color, and the reproduction color having a reproduction distance, which is a distance between the representative color and the reproduction color, wherein  
the reproduction distance decreases with increase in the color adjustment distance  
when the color adjustment distance is larger than a certain value.

20. (Currently Amended) A printer comprising:

a color processing device for adjusting colors of a specific region, which is a subject of the adjustment in a color image, wherein the color processing apparatus includes:

a color adjustment distance calculation section for calculating a color adjustment distance, which is a distance on a color space between a representative color representing the specific region in the color image and a target color, which is target of the adjustment, on the basis of the representative color and the target color; and

a reproduction color decision section for deciding a reproduction color expressing the representative color of the specific region after the adjustment on the basis of the color adjustment distance, wherein the reproduction color is located between the representative color and the target color, and the reproduction color having a reproduction distance, which is a distance between the representative color and the reproduction color, wherein  
the reproduction distance decreases with increase in the color adjustment distance  
when the color adjustment distance is larger than a certain value.